

Science Story Adventures



Animal Parents

Learning outcomes

- » Plants and animals have predictable life cycles. (Grade 2 - Life Sciences)
- » Organisms reproduce offspring of their own kind and that the offspring resemble their parents and one another. (Grade 2 - Life Sciences)
- » Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival. (Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Motherlove by Virginia Kroll
Safe, Warm and Snug by Stephen R. Swinburne
Close to You by Kimiko Kajikawa
Mister Seahorse by Eric Carle
Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother Too? by Eric Carle

Activities we did

We played a game where we matched up young animal names and parents' names.
You can use the information from this web page to create your own game:
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/animals/Animalbabies.shtml>

Today's craft: Seahorse Puppet



You will need:

- » Father seahorse and baby seahorse template.
- » Scissors
- » Colored pencils.
- » Sticky tape
- » Tongue depressors

Directions:

1. Color the father seahorse, pouch and baby seahorses. Draw eyes on the father and the babies.
2. Cut out the father seahorse, pouch and babies (cut an oval around each baby as they are rather fiddly to cut out precisely).
3. Stick the pouch on the father seahorse with tape, and pop the babies into it.
4. Tape the tongue depressor on the back - now you can make your seahorse swim.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

If My Mom Were a Platypus by Dia L. Michels. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL706.2 .M53 2001
All about animal mothers and their babies.

Life Cycles: The Singing Mailbox by Jane Belk Moncure
Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL696 .P287 M66 1990.
A story about a pair of wrens that build a nest in a mailbox. This book shows how the parents prepare for their chicks and look after them once they hatch.

A Mother's Journey by Sandra Markle. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL696 .S473 M37 2005.
A story about the extraordinary journey mother Emperor Penguins make to fetch food for their newly hatched chicks.

Over In The Ocean, In A Coral Reef by Marianne Berkes.
Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .C7 B47 2004.
A fun story about different mothers in the coral reef.

Polar Bear Cubs by Downs Matthews. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .C27 M355 1989
Describes the life of a pair of polar bear cubs as they play, explore, and learn to hunt with their mother

DVDs

The Life of Birds Nat. Ctr. Media QL698.3 .L53 2002.
Disc 3 contains two episodes that look at bird parenting.

March of the Penguins Nat. Ctr. Media QL696 .M36 2005
This moving documentary shows the extraordinary lengths that Emperor Penguin parents go to when raising their chicks.

Websites

Animal Mothers and Babies Photos

Great pictures of mothers and cute babies including kangaroos, penguins and polar bears.

http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photos/animal-mothers-babies/#zambezi-elephants_13415_600x450.jpg

Animal Super-Dads

Usually it's the mother that looks after the young, but in a few rare cases it's the dad that does the work.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/seahorse/superdads.html>

Seahorse

Did you know that seahorses have no stomach or digestive system? Find out how they survive at this website.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/seahorse.html>

Which Animal Parent Are You?

Take this fun quiz to find out which animal parent you're most like!

<http://animal.discovery.com/fansites/ms-adventure/animal-in-you/quizzes/parenting/parenting.html>

